

L'Shanah Tovah — 5745



The beautiful stained-glass windows of the Unitarian Center will once again illumine Sha'ar Zahav's High Holy Day Services this year. Everyone is invited and welcome to worship with us to celebrate the beginning of the year 5745. This will be our 8th consecutive year to gather together in our special observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and we are maintaining our "age-old" tradition of not charging for tickets. We are honored to have our fine Ritual Committee leading us in our High Holy Day Services, and will be using Sha'ar Zahav's own Machzors for these holidays.

High Holy Day Schedule Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 26
Evening Services, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 27
Shacharit and Musaf Services, 10:00 a.m.
*Evening Services, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 28
*Shacharit and Musaf Services,
10:00 a.m.

Yom Kippur

Friday, October 5
Kol Nidre Service, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 6
Shacharit and Musaf Services, 10:00 a.m.
Yizkor and Ne'ilah Services, 6:00 p.m.

* Rosh Hashanah Second Day Services will be held at Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli. All other services are at the Unitarian Center, corner of Franklin and Geary.

We look forward to a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year, and we encourage both members and non-members alike to join us and to participate in our worship. The Unitarian Center is wheelchair accessible, and sign language interpretation will be available.

All principal High Holy Day Services will be held in the Main Sanctuary of the Unitarian Center, located at Franklin and Geary Streets, San Francisco. Please note, however, that this year services are planned for the second day of Rosh Hashanah. These services will be held at our synagogue, not at the Unitarian Center.

לשנה טובה תכתבו

Illustration by Elaine Grove from Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1979.

Starring HHD Positions Available!

Frank Hyman, coordinator of our High Holy Day Services, has announced that there are many, many openings available in the staffing schedule for the High Holy Days. If you would like to usher, help with Onegs, help transport materials or staff the information table, please contact Frank — even if you can offer assistance for just an hour or so at only one of the services. With all of our participation, the many tasks associated with our High Holy Day services can be handled effortlessly and smoothly. Give Frank a call at 431-9479 or contact him at Friday night services to sign up for your favorite task.

A New Year — A New Look

For the past several months, the Newsletter Committee has been working on a new design for *The Forward*, and this month, it hits the streets. Our aim was to create a new look to reflect a new spirit at Sha'ar Zahav. We'll gladly accept comments, but no quibbles about the spirit of the 80's having taken 4 years to reach our committee.

Our thanks first of all to our sibling congregation, Am Tikva in Boston, whose version of the Magen David with lambda we have adopted as the focus of our logo. Thanks also to Georgi Horwitz of L.M. Silverman Design Associates who worked with us to develop the graphic design. Georgi came up with the best features of the design — the other parts result from our sticking in our own ideas after she left the room.

The Newsletter Committee hopes to continue to increase the service and informational functions of our newsletter in the coming year, while making it an even more entertaining publication as well.

President's Column

Each year as we prepare for the High Holidays, we reflect on the challenges and accomplishments of the year ending and prepare our minds and souls for what we intend shall be an even better year ahead. We do this as individuals, and we also do this as a Congregation. We always strive to evaluate ourselves honestly and with compassion, and to set goals for the future that will enhance and enrich our lives, the lives of the people around us, and the beautiful planet which we all share. In the spirit of this reflection and evaluation, we will always find much of which to be proud, much left undone and ample opportunities before us to enliven the coming year. So is it with each person; so is it with Sha'ar Zahav.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll (editor); Bob Goldware, Irene Ogus, Marilyn O'Keeffe and Leila Raim (editorial and production); Bart Benderoff, Frank Hyman, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alita Rosenfeld (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by En Character and printed by Lou Greene.

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads (for members only) are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

As a congregation, we have justifiable pride in accomplishments made in the past year: the dedication of our "Home," our continuing commitment to good works as demonstrated by our activities on behalf of the gay and Jewish communities locally and around the world; the caring *mishpucha* we provide for one another.

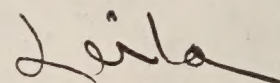
The challenges and opportunities for the coming year are myriad and exciting. Much work is yet to be done on our Home, including renovation of the second floor and the Bima which will be begun this year. The Social Action and Education Committees are being revitalized and tantalizing opportunities abound for involvement. Social Programming will greatly benefit from the annual calendar developed at the Advance and the able leadership of Judah Katz as coordinator. Our Social Programming will now be handled as an integrated whole, not merely separate "events." And this will allow for even more participation by members in the planning and execution of activities.

I want you all to know that my personal goal for the coming year is to become the very best president of Sha'ar Zahav that I am capable of being. I will strive always to understand our divergent views as reflections of our richness and to bring caring, respect and openness into all our deliberations and decision-making. I will always be available to hear the concerns and ideas of Sha'ar Zahavniks and will do all in my power to make EVERYONE in our "family" realize their importance to us and enhance their participation in our congregational life.

What I ask from each Sha'ar Zahavnik during the coming year is to increase, even by a small degree, your level of commitment/participation. Spend a little more time

with us. Become a little more involved in the work, committee or otherwise, of the Congregation. Consider the joys and challenges of becoming part of the Congregational leadership. Raise the level of Tzedakah you give your congregation. Give us the benefit of your talent and your energy. Next year at this time of reflection you will find that your dedication to Sha'ar Zahav is a strong plus in your self evaluation. As Rabbi Tarfon said: "The day is short, and the work is great... and the reward is much."

L'Shanah Tovah



Women's Chavurah

HHD Blood Drive

On September 29, 1984, the Women's Chavurah will sponsor our Annual High Holy Days Blood Drive at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank.

At this special time of year, we evaluate our lives and our relationships with our family and friends. One of the sadder things to note in the past year has been the illness and death of several members of our congregation. One of the more joyous things is that, as family and friends, there are ways that we can ease these times for one another. Our Blood Bank account is one of them. It meant so much to me this year when we could provide transfusions for a dear friend who was dying, and I know it meant much to him as well.

Our Blood Drives take place in the spirit of *mishpacha*. Although most gay men cannot donate blood at this time due to the more stringent requirements of the blood bank, members of the CSZ Brotherhood will be there acting as candystripers, serving cake and juice and providing warm moral support. We will also follow our tradition of distributing 'Walkpersons' with the music of your choice and will provide foot massages while you donate. Giving blood takes only a half hour — but hanging around to schmooze takes as long as you want!

In this spirit, we look forward to seeing many of our sisters between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on September 29 at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, corner of Turk and Masonic. Please join us if you can — and, both men and women, please encourage your friends to join us as well. L'Shanah Tova.

— Nancy Meyer

CSZ Brotherhood

On Sunday, August 12, the CSZ Brotherhood held a swim party and barbeque at Max's home in Danville. About 40 men attended — old members and new members and friends of the Congregation alike. There were hamburgers and a cold buffet, beer and soft drinks, and munchies and desserts galore. And a lot of relaxing in the sun and good conversation with old and new friends. Our thanks to Max for his hospitality, to Jerry Sacks and Jim Proctor for organizing the day and to Frank Hyman for all the hamburgers. Watch for the announcement of the next Brotherhood event, being planned for sometime after the High Holy Days.

New Year Customs: The Shofar Is More Than a Jewish Noisemaker

Marking the Jewish New Year, *Rosh Hashanah* occurs on the first day of the seventh calendar month, *Tishrei*, considered a holy month in the year, just as the seventh day in the week is a holy day. The sabbatical year (every seven years) and the year of the jubilee (after seven times seven years) are likewise designed to begin on the seventh month, when the annual agricultural cycle began in the Land of Israel.

Rosh Hashanah, since early times regarded as a day of reflection and repentance, is designated by four names — two biblical and two liturgical. Liturgically, *Rosh Hashanah* is called *Yom Ha-Din*, the Day of Judgment, and *Yom Ha-Zikaron*, the Day of Remembrance. In Leviticus 23:24, it is identified as a day of Sabbath observance, *Shabbaton*, and in both that verse and Numbers 29:1, as a day of *shofar* blasts, *Yom Teruah*.

One of the most prominent features in the observance of *Rosh Hashanah* is the sounding of the *shofar*, consisting of three distinctive notes: *tekiah*, a plain sound ending abruptly; *shevarim*, three short blasts; and *teruah*, a succession of nine tremulous sounds. Serving as a reminder of the *shofar* blasts at Mount Sinai, the aggregation of exactly one hundred *shofar* notes heard on each day of *Rosh Hashanah* is intended to stir the conscience of the Jewish people, summoning us to self-judgment and self-improvement. Rav Sa'adyah Gaon of the 10th Century adds that the *shofar* proclaims God's sovereignty on the anniversary of creation as well as inspiring us with hope for the final restoration of the People of Israel.

The *shofar* itself is made from the horn of any clean animal, except from the horn of an ox or a cow, which might recall the incident of the golden calf in the desert, where the Children of Israel showed their faithlessness.

Another unique feature in the observance of *Rosh Hashanah* is the custom of symbolically casting one's sins into a running stream, called *Tashlich*.

Although the name *Tashlich* (you will cast) is derived from Micah 7:19, the custom presumably dates from the 14th Century.



19th Century Dutch woodcut

In the afternoon of the first day, processions are formed to the banks of a river where verses from Psalms and Micah are recited. Based upon the figurative expression "You will cast all our sins into the depth of the sea," God is viewed as ready to pardon the transgressions of the sincere penitent. The *Tashlich* prayers are recited near a body of water where there are fish, symbolizing human beings who are caught in nets of sin and punishment. There is a custom of casting bread crumbs upon the water as part of this ceremony, constituting a symbolic emptying of the pockets and casting the sins into the depths. In the words of the *Zohar*: "Whatever falls into the deep is lost forever."

Tashlich is observed at Sha'ar Zahav with a casting of bread crumbs from the Golden Gate Bridge immediately following the Oneg on the first day of *Rosh Hashanah*.

No Jewish holiday would be complete without a special gastronomic observance. *Rosh Hashanah* brings us round *challot* (loaves of bread), symbolizing the creation of the world as well as continuity from the old year to the new. Pieces of the *challot*, along with apples and other fruit, are dipped in honey and eaten after the recitation of the following blessing:

Y'hi ratzon she-t'chadesh aleinu shanah tovah u'metukah.

May it be God's will to renew for us a year that will be good and sweet.

May we at Sha'ar Zahav be blessed with a good and sweet year, a year which will bring us all closer to the realization of our dreams.

Support A Fund — Any Fund

Sha'ar Zahav's health is founded on a good spiritual and fiscal base. The Finance Committee wishes to remind all members and friends of the Congregation of the various funds that are available for your support. Any reason is a good reason for contributions: a birthday, anniversary, *yahrzeit*, *simcha*, etc., etc. You may specify which fund your gift is to be dedicated to. Our funds are:

The General Fund is used to underwrite the ongoing activities and committee programs of the Congregation.

The Building Fund is used for mortgage payments and building improvements.

The Education Fund is earmarked to cover the costs of teachers for classes, books and learning materials, film programs, lecturer stipends, etc.

The Harvey Milk Social Action Fund is used to make contributions to social causes that the Synagogue wishes to lend support to — for example, aid to the Falashas, Soviet Jewry, National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

The Library Fund is for the development of a reference library for our Congregation.

The Phooey on AIDS Fund is for the assistance of members and friends diagnosed with AIDS and is also used to support AIDS-related educational and humanitarian projects in our community.

The Prayer Book Fund is used to underwrite the costs of writing, revising and publishing our prayerbooks.

The Torah Fund is for the purchase of a new torah and adornments for our Congregation.

Contributions are acknowledged by letter and in *The Forward*, and the person being honored receives a card announcing the gift as well. All donations to Sha'ar Zahav are tax deductible.

Remember Israel Bonds

The State of Israel Bonds Development Corporation for Israel is currently conducting a campaign, in conjunction with El Al, promoting the improved State of Israel \$250 Certificate, many of the features of which are geared toward visiting Israel. The certificates reach a 5-year maturity value of \$360 in Israeli currency. For more information, write 47 Kearny Street, Suite 705, SF 94108, or call 781-3213.

News Flash... of Sorts

Dues statements have been mailed to all Members and Friends of the Congregation. Our Treasurer would be delighted to learn that they were received as well. Just follow the easy instructions indicated on the personalized form. He'll then find out. He thanks you.

Kashrut Policy

At Sha'ar Zahav, we have always tried to recognize and plan from the fact that our membership is drawn from Jews of diverse ritual traditions. Without realizing it, our Congregation is developing its own distinctive *halacha* — traditions.

During the last four months, the Va'ad has attempted to evolve a kashrut policy, outlining for all our members, friends and visitors guidelines regarding the serving of food in the building and providing food at Congregational functions outside the building.

It was agreed that before any final version of a kashrut policy is adopted, a *preliminary version* be published, eliciting written responses from our members and friends. Please read the following outline and perhaps take the time to write your observations and send them to the office, attention *David Stein*, who is coordinating the formulation of our kashrut policy. This issue is currently slated to be an agenda item at the October Va'ad meeting.

Education Committee Reconvenes

Developmental activity on the Education Committee is being reactivated with a meeting on Thursday night, September 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Synagogue. At the recent congregational "Advance", a workshop was held to formulate broad guidelines for educational programming in our synagogue. A committee is being reconvened to evaluate these ideas and begin a program for implementation.

Our possible activities will involve some basic classroom programming as well as possible film and/or lecture series. A third aspect will involve the development of a library for our congregation.

There is no chair at the present time, so our Vice President, Don Albert, will help to facilitate the initial meetings. It is hoped that a member of the committee will assume that leadership in the near future. If anyone has a background in education or an interest in working on the development of our program, please mark the date and attend the meeting on September 13. If you would like more information, or have ideas to discuss, call Don Albert at 826-0785.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav Proposed Kashrut Policy

1. For all Congregational functions held at the building — including religious, cultural and organizational events — at which food is *provided*:
 - a. No pork or shellfish shall be allowed.
 - b. The mixing of milk and meat products shall be prohibited.
 - c. All meat products shall be kosher.
2. For all Congregational functions not held at the building at which food is *provided*: #1a shall apply and attempts to follow #1b and #1c shall be made to whatever degree is practicable. Ample food, however, must always be provided for people who observe Kashrut as outlined in #1 and/or are vegetarian.
3. For all food brought into the building for personal consumption (brown-bagging), only #1a shall apply. Personal or disposable dishes and utensils should be used.
4. For outside groups using the building, rules in #3 shall apply.

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of July, Oneg Shabbats were sponsored by the following generous persons:

- July 6 — **Jerry Rosenstein**, in honor of CSZ's new fiscal year
July 13 — **Alita Rosenfeld**, in honor of Diane Hajicek's baby, Jesse Lynn
July 20 — **David Gellman**, in honor of Mike Rankin
July 27 — **Mark Mackler & Ingu Yun**, in honor of Mark's parents, Howard & Phyllis Mackler, visiting from Massachusetts

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Peter Abinanti (441-0276), see him at an Oneg or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$30-40 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund —

Herbert J. Gershen, M.D.

Alan A. Orvis & Elaine R. Orvis, in honor of CSZ

Don Gordon

Isabelle Fishman, in memory of her husband

David Kotch, in memory of Anthony Erceg, father of Michael Erceg

For the Building Fund (general) —

Benjamin Schalit, in honor of Steve Elman's birthday

George Ashe, to celebrate the opening of his art gallery, Church Street Faire at 24th & Church

In Memory of Ted Mendonca —

Donald Saunders

Susan Talley

In Memory of Duff Kreitzberg —

Jack Margid

Bruce Fitting & Dennis Hathaway

For the Prayerbook Fund —

Janet M. Larson

Teaching Torah Donated

The Congregation was recently pleased to accept the gift of a small, printed torah scroll for use in teaching torah reading — a gift in honor of Joanne Woolf's acceptance into rabbinical school, given by an anonymous friend.

Remember

to keep us up to date.

If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our *yahrzeit* or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.



Castro Fair

The fog carried in the wind and chill, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the volunteers who staffed Sha'ar Zahav's booth at the Castro Street Fair on Sunday, August 19. From before noon until late in the afternoon, visitors to the fair were introduced to the Congregation's spirit and the services it provides. Special thanks to Jay Feinstein and Richard Inlander for coordinating the event, and to Bob Goldware for helping to set up and take down the booth. Also instrumental in the success of this largely public relations event were all the members who gave their time to staff the booth throughout the day: Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Leslie Bergson, Ralph Frischman, Stephanie Hannaford, Alex Ingersoll, Allyce Kimerling, Mike Lipson, Paul Margolis, Mark Mendelow, Leila Raim, Tom Rothgiesser, Sharyn Saslafsky, David Shaber, David Stein, Rob Tat, Susan Unger and all the others who checked in during the afternoon.



World Congress Meets In Seattle

From July 4-7, delegates to the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations held their annual board meeting in Seattle, Washington. The meeting was hosted by our sibling congregation in Seattle, Tikvah Chadashah, who made everyone feel very welcome during our visit to their beautiful city. In addition to the proposed agenda for the weekend conference, a full slate of social activities was organized for the evenings. These included a welcoming cocktail party overlooking the Bay (complete with 4th of July fireworks), dining out in the gay/lesbian eateries in the area, a tour of Seattle's Underground City, a boat ride along the scenic waterfront and several smaller "tours" personally given by congregation members.

The weekend was highlighted by a beautiful Shabbat service, preceded by a bountiful potluck dinner given in our honor by the Congregation. The service itself included the "premiere" of Tikvah Chadashah's new Friday night prayerbook, which included several of Sha'ar Zahav's prayers, and the sermon, which was delivered by a woman rabbi in the Seattle area. Following services, members of the congregation performed an adaptation of *A Bintl Briv*, a wonderful piece of theatre that was very professionally done, and wonderfully received by the audience.

So, you're asking, with all this fancy, shmancy programming, what did the World Congress accomplish? Plenty! Thirteen of the 21 member groups of the organization were present at the meetings, and Aaron Cooper and I represented Congregation Sha'ar Zahav at the meetings. Aaron is the Executive Director of the World Congress, and I was the delegate representing Sha'ar Zahav. The agenda for the first day primarily concerned the continued internal restructuring that was begun at last year's Board Meeting in Miami, Florida. The By-Laws committee presented new changes/proposals which were discussed at length and then voted on by the delegates.

The Board also took the following action at the meetings:

- passed a resolution urging the Lesbian/Gay Interfaith Alliance, of which the World Congress is a member, to include the fight against Anti-Semitism in its statement of purpose;
- approved the creation of a Commission on the Status of Women in World Congress Activities, with the goal of offering recom-

mendations towards enhancing women's participation in the World Congress;

- approved a grant proposal to the Chicago Resource Center seeking funding for World Congress programs of development and outreach to other gay and lesbian Jewish groups;

- formed a committee to survey the needs of non-United States groups (both member and non-member) to see how the World Congress can better serve their needs.

The last day of the conference consisted of workshops addressing problems relevant to World Congress member organizations. These were led by members of the larger, more experienced groups and were seen as very instructive to everyone who attended. There was much sharing of information concerning needs of the individual groups, and possible solutions to their problems — increasing membership, preventing burn-out of leadership, integration with the non-gay Jewish community, etc. It was clear that each group had its own specific hurdles to overcome, but with the help and advice of other groups, along with the brain-storming that occurred at the workshops, it was felt that good progress was made. Delegates felt that they now could go back to their groups with new ideas, and even new energy to put those ideas into motion!

On as closing note, Ed Traitman of Beth Ahavah, Philadelphia, was elected as the new President of the Board of Directors of the organization, and Aaron Cooper was unanimously re-elected as Executive Director of the organization. The members of the board expressed their appreciation to Aaron for his conscientious work over the past year, and it was felt by everyone that the organization has made great progress in a very short time. We're all looking forward to even more productivity over the coming year. Finally, Aliza Maggid was chosen as Director of Organizational Development and will work closely with Ed and Aaron this year to help fledgling groups, as well as those current members in need of help or advice during the year.

The next board meeting of the World Congress will take place in Washington, D.C. and will run concurrently with the 9th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, June 6-9, 1985. Mark your calendars now for the Conference. It is well worth attending!

— Eric Keitel



Report on The Annual Leadership Advance

For the past four years, leaders of the Congregation — including incoming and outgoing officers and Va'ad members, committee chairs, other persons undertaking leadership responsibilities and past leaders of the Congregation — have gotten together once a year for intensive work sessions. Usually the program lasts from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon and focuses on issues and challenges currently facing the Congregation. The format includes hours of workshop sessions, informal discussions and enough social activity to allow for relaxed creative thinking and avoid burn out. The purpose is to resolve any problems, plan for an exciting year of activity and accomplishment, refine leadership skills, encourage enhanced participation by members in CSZ process and activity, and develop an overview of where we've been, where we are, and attempt to glimpse our future. In order to make the process as productive as possible, we are accompanied by a professional facilitator who helps us focus and leads our workshops. The level of commitment of the participants is remarkably high. Not only are they willing to give a week-end over entirely to CSZ work, they make a large financial commitment as well. CSZ pays for the facilitator; each participant pays all his/her expenses.

This year, for the second time, we went to Greenwood Lodge, a lovely rustic conference center in the Santa Cruz mountains. The Advance took place during the last week-end in July and was attended by 22 members of the Congregation's leadership. Rob Tat coordinated the workshop development, and David Shaber coordinated reservations and logistics. Many thanks to them both for jobs very well done! Our facilitator was Susan Colson, a professional with a great deal of experience working with volunteer organizations.

The main areas we addressed during our working sessions were: the development of a comprehensive annual calendar of CSZ and related events; brainstorming on committee-related issues, focusing on Education, Social Action and Ways and Means, to develop scope and missions for those committees; attracting and maintaining volunteer participation; and discussing "Our Group Vision: What We Are and How We Want To Evolve."

The calendar will allow all Sha'ar Zahavniks to plan well ahead for our activities and enable us to insure ample time to arrange for each event. The committee brainstorming should enhance committee vision and goals and excite more member participation. The session on volunteerism should help us increase our volunteer pool and enhance the rewards of participation. "Our Group Vision" serves to keep us ever looking forward with dynamism and dedication.

Our ritual life was not neglected. Leslie Bergson, Daniel Chesir and Steve Greenberg conducted Shabbat evening and morning services and Havdallah. Steve also did his famous Camp-Rama-counselor-of-song routine, to everyone's enjoyment.

While all this was going on, we managed to have a good time together! David Gellman, otherwise known as Building Committee Chair, led the first ever Esther Williams All Male Aquacade. Everyone agreed they deserved the Gold Medal for Chutzpa and for laughing underwater. Saturday night, after Havdallah, a large contingent went to the Santa Cruz Boardwalk to act out our Peter Pan fantasies. The more civilized and sedate among us stayed at the lodge and played Trivial Pursuit. We all proved we can be silly and play as well as we can be serious and work.

On all levels it was a very successful

endeavor — one that we hope will benefit our entire congregation. More on the specific committee break-out results next month. If YOU want to get in on more of the excitement... JUST LET US KNOW!

Va'ad Report

The August Va'ad Meeting was held on Monday, August 13, at the shul. The first task of the evening was a pleasant one that involved the Va'ad's voting unanimously to approve Leila's nomination of Allyce Kimerling to fill the Va'ad seat vacated by Nancy Meyer last month.

In her report to the Va'ad, Leila reviewed the plans for Sha'ar Zahav's involvement in this year's Castro Street Fair, our booth being coordinated by Richard Inlander and Jay Feinstein. Leila also discussed the E.C.'s recommendations for how we should participate in the Annual Israel Bond Drive, and the Va'ad voted to publicize the drive in *The Forward*.

Following Leila's recommendation, the Va'ad approved the plan of having our custodian help in the preparation of, and clean-up after the Friday night Onegs, in order to provide the Oneg Committee with some well-deserved assistance. The Va'ad also voted unanimously to approve the hiring of our first synagogue administrator, Marilyn Hertzberg, who will begin in the very near future.

Committee reports: The Va'ad approved the Building Committee's recommendation that we purchase new folding chairs for the sanctuary and the meeting room, along with new tables for the meeting room. There will be a meeting aimed at reactivating the Education Committee on September 13, to be coordinated by Don Albert, and Judah Katz has agreed to be our new coordinator of Social Programming. Exciting things are happening in Newsletterland! Alex Ingersoll proudly displayed the new layout for *The Forward*. The Va'ad was thrilled to vote nine yes, count them, nine new members into our congregational family. Congrats to the Membership Committee. The Ritual Committee informed the Va'ad that plans are well underway for this year's High Holy Day services and a full day has been set aside in September for the remainder of their preparation.

New Business: The Va'ad voted to publish a working draft of the proposed Kashrut

(Continued on page 8)

Attorney

David R. Gellman
(415) 621-2966

- Contracts & Leases
- Estate Planning & Wills

- Real Estate
- Business Law & Litigation

Reasonable Fees
Evening &
Weekend
Appointments

45 Franklin St.
San Francisco, Ca.
94102

SEPTEMBER

אלול - תשרי

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						4 Elul 1
5 2	6 3	7 4	8 5	9 6	10 7	11 8
12 9	13 10 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	14 11 Newsletter Comm. Alex, 648-4818	15 12 Vigil for Soviet Jewry, Green & Baker, 11:30am	16 13 Education Comm. 7pm Social Action 7pm, Ron, 647-4050	17 14	18 15
19 16 Picnic/Softball Julius Kahn Field 11:30-4:30	20 17	21 18	22 19	23 20	24 21	25 22
26 23	27 24	28 25	29 26 Erev Rosh Hashanah	1 Tishrei 27 1st Day Rosh Hashanah See High Holy Day Schedule	2 28 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah	3 29 Women's Chavurah Blood Drive Irwin Memorial 10am-noon
4 30 Fast of Gedalia						

September Ritual Calendar

Friday, September 7

Parshah: Ki Tetze, Deut. 21:10-25:19

Haftarah: Isaiah 52:1-10

Eric Keitel, Services

Friday, September 14

Parshah: Ki Tavo, Deut. 26:1-29:8

Haftarah: Isaiah 60:1-22

Daniel Chesir & Terry Rothchild,
Services

Friday, September 21

Parshah: Nitzavim, Deut. 29:9-31:30

Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10-63:9

Ron Lezell & Talia Shafir, Services

Saturday, September 22

Slichot Service, 11:45 p.m.

Ritual Committee & Friends

Wednesday, September 26

Thursday, September 27

Friday, September 28

Rosh Hashanah

See High Holy Day schedule

Friday, September 28

Shabbat Shuvah

Parshah: Ha-azinu, Deut. 32:1-52

Special Haftarah: Hosea 14:2-10

Micah 7:18-20

Joel 2:15-17

Daniel Chesir, Services

October Ritual Preview

Friday, October 5

Saturday, October 6

Yom Kippur

See High Holy Day schedule

Wednesday, October 10

Erev Sukkot

Sukkot Services & Potluck

at 424 Central Avenue, SF

(Paul Cohen & Allen Gold's house)

Garry Koenigsberg, Services

Friday night services begin at 8:15 in the
sanctuary of our synagogue, located at 220
Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

Softball Game/Picnic

September is here and it's time to play ball. There's still time to do your homework, i.e., loosen up your pitching arm and dust off your pom-poms before our Third Annual Softball Game & Picnic. No experience in softball or cheerleading is necessary — just enthusiasm. To keep our energy levels up, be sure to bring a picnic lunch and/or food to share. A grill will be provided. The time and place are as follows:

Sunday, September 16

Julius Kahn Playground

San Francisco Presidio

11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Directions: Enter the Presidio through the Arguello Gate. Make an immediate sharp right and follow the wall down to the bottom of the hill. The picnic area and playing field are to the left.

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

Can't our service leaders learn to pronounce Hebrew the right way? Most of them do it well, but every once in awhile someone will get up who says boruch, not baruch, and mitzvov instead of mitzvotav. This poorly pronounced Hebrew reflects badly on our congregation. Shouldn't something be done?

Anxious on Ashbury

Dear Anxious,

Aunt Yente applauds your attention to the Hebrew parts of our services, and encourages you to perfect your own pronunciation the way you've chosen. But as to your premise that there is only one "right way" to pronounce Hebrew in synagogue, she is forced to say phooey.

There are two main pronunciation systems for Hebrew, called "Sephardic" and "Ashkenazi". (A third artificial pronunciation system, used only by conservative scholastic types, is simply *mishegas* and can be ignored.) Sephardic, generally, refers to the Hebrew pronunciation used by Jews from the Mediterranean area; Ashkenazi, to the pronunciation used by Jews from northern Europe. What you call the "right way" — what is certainly the usual way in our congregation — is Sephardic. But to say it is the only "right way" — oy! If you have the patience, Aunt Yente will explain, but it is a very long story — almost as long as our history.

In biblical times, people in Jerusalem probably pronounced Hebrew in something like the Sephardic mode, while Jews from Galilee and other northern areas used something

more like Ashkanazi. Since no one was there with a tape recorder, however (even your Aunt Yente was only a little girl back then), no one can be very sure. And we certainly don't know how European Jews would up with one type of pronunciation and Mediterranean Jews with another. So why do people think Sephardic is the "right stuff"?

When Jews from around the world began founding the modern country Israel, they saw that they needed a common language and decided to resurrect Hebrew. You should understand that for over two thousand years, no one had spoken Hebrew in everyday use; even in later biblical times, people spoke Aramaic, another Semitic language. In resurrecting what had become only a "book" language, grammar had to be modernized, large amounts of vocabulary created, and a uniform pronunciation system agreed upon. So, the Sephardic mode was chosen. Nu, now Sephardic is the only proper way to pronounce modern Hebrew.

But liturgical Hebrew — the Hebrew of the Bible and the prayerbook — is not modern Hebrew. The grammar is different, the vocabulary is different, and the context — that is very different. Liturgical Hebrew we use to talk with God. But since God presumably understands English, Russian or Maori as well as God understands Hebrew, why use Hebrew at all? (Aunt Yente hears that for some time God has had trouble understanding legal terms, but as soon as a lawyer goes to heaven, the problem will be solved.)

Obviously, we don't pray in Hebrew because God understands it better than

English. We use Hebrew because, as they say in northern California, it has resonances for us. It was the language of prayer for our parents, and our grandparents and our great-grandparents — it has been the language of prayer for our people since the time of Moses. When we pray in Hebrew, we feel bound up with all those others who said these words before us. But for Ashkenazi Jews — those whose families came from Europe — the sound of Hebrew that best recalls the prayers of parents and grandparents is Ashkenazi Hebrew, which was the uniform language of Jewish prayer in Europe for hundreds and hundreds of years.

So for Aunt Yente, to hear Ashkenazi Hebrew (with its *oh's* instead of *ah's*, and its *s's* instead of *t's*) is very special, and something she would not like to give up. Aunt Yente would not like to see the form of Hebrew spoken by the 6 million, Hebrew as pronounced by Rashi and the Ba'al Shem Tov, to be lost entirely, even in our synagogue. As it is said, "The more traditions, the more richness; the more room for differences, the more strength." (Who says it? Your Aunt Yente!)

Sholom and Shalom,
Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in *The Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All material © 1984 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Administrator Found

After two months of advertising, screening, and interviewing, the Va'ad has approved a recommendation to hire Marilyn Hertzberg as our new Synagogue Administrator. Marilyn brings a strong background in organization and administrative skills to Sha'ar Zahav. She has also had extensive experience in public contact and human relations.

Marilyn comes from an interesting background of Jewish tradition, including her present involvement in a Reconstructionist Havurah. It is anticipated that the office will be staffed five hours per day, four days a week (Tuesday through Friday). A final office schedule is being prepared at this time.

The Va'ad is sure the Congregation will warmly welcome our new administrator. We will have the opportunity to introduce her at a Friday night service later this fall.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained several new members in August. A warm welcome to:

Allen Brandstein
Stephen Foster & Donald Pepper
Ralph Frischman
Stephanie Hannaford
Russell Kassman
Marilyn Miller
Dawn Rose
Gwen Schwartz

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Va'ad Report (Cont. from page 6)

policy in *The Forward* so that members will have an opportunity to give their feedback prior to the policy being finalized and voted on at the October Va'ad meeting. Lastly, the Va'ad gave the go-ahead to Allan Berenstein to chair a new committee aimed at exploring the resources and possibilities for our having a leadership training program so that Sha'ar Zahav will be able to have a strong pool of potential leaders to draw on in the future.

Important issues to be dealt with at the September 10 Va'ad meeting include: (1) obsolete restricted funds; (2) "good will" donations; (3) reports on this year's Advance and (4) on the meeting of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations held in July in Seattle.

— Mark Mendelow, Recorder

Social Action Report

AB-1 Strategy Meeting

The Lesbian/Gay Liaison Office of the SF Human Rights Commission is having an organizational meeting regarding the re-introduction of State Assembly Bill 1 (AB-1) on Thursday, September 6 at 7 p.m. at the Valencia Rose, 776 Valencia Street in SF. AB-1 is chiefly designed to prevent discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual preference. The bill passed in the last session of the state legislature, but was vetoed by Governor Deukmejian because he saw no demonstrated need for such protection.

The purpose of this planning session is to develop a strategy for demonstrating to Deukmejian and other legislators that such bias does exist and that the protection afforded by the bill is needed.

Vigil for Soviet Jewry

Sha'ar Zahav is continuing to work with the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry to maintain a protest vigil in front of the Soviet Consulate at Green and Baker. Our time slot is the second Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to noon. Placards are provided.

The Social Action Committee will be meeting on Thursday, September 13 at my house. Please contact me at 647-4050 for any further information.

— Ron Lezell, Chair
Social Action Committee

September Yahrzeits

- 1 Samuel Albert, Grandfather of Don Albert
- 1 Nathan Miller, Father of G. Murray Miller
- 4 Abraham Parker, Father of Harold Parker
- 5 Samuel Brouwenstein, Grandfather of Michael Barclay
- 5 John Lerse, Uncle of Carol Hoffman
- 8 (11 Elul) Maurice Ash, Father of Terry Rothchild
- 15 Bertha Goldware, Grandmother of Robert Goldware
- 16 Ira Fiul, Uncle of Carol Fiul
- 17 (20 Elul) Frances Cohen, Sister of Bernard Pechter
- 19 (22 Elul) Jeanette Solomon Toporek, Mother of Elliott Toporek
- 21 Edna K. Randall, Grandmother of Benjamin Schalit
- 21 (24 Elul) Yetta Skolnick, Grandmother of Hal Heller
- 23 Mary Moss, Mother of David Moss
- 23 Fannie Stein, Mother of David Stein

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

September Birthdays!

- 1 Tom Rothgiesser
- 2 Jeff Friedman
- 2 Simma Lieberman
- 4 Suzanne Shanbaum
- 7 Al Baum
- 9 Mark Weisman
- 1 Andrea Land
- 13 Paul Margolis
- 15 Elliot Schneck
- 19 Rob Tat
- 20 Mel Kirsch
- 21 Janine Baer
- 21 Steven Cronenwalt
- 21 Laurie Radovsky
- 27 Ralph Vissell
- 28 Dan Serbins
- 29 Jay Johnson

Letters

(The Congregation recently received the following letter from Sam Allen, lover of member Joe Zygielbaum who died in June).

I want to thank you all for the compassion, caring and attention you have given us, especially Joe.

Your providing the ceremony of marriage two years ago was one of the most beautiful and memorable events of our lives, and now that such a joyous event has turned to sorrow, you are still involved and loving.

It is with the support and help of friends like you that we shall come through this nightmare of AIDS.

In Joe's memory and from his support of your goals and work, I thank you. God bless you.

Calendar for 5745

October 1984

- Fri 5 Kol Nidre Service
- Sat 6 Yom Kippur Services
- Tue 8 Va'ad Meeting
- Wed 10 Erev Sukkot Service
- Thu 18 Shemini Atzeret
- Fri 19 Simchat Torah

November 1984

- Sun 4 Congregational Meeting
- Mon 12 Va'ad Meeting
- Fri 23 Interfaith Service

December 1984

- Mon 10 Va'ad Meeting
- Tue 18 Erev Chanukah
- Fri 21 Chanukah Service
- Sat 22 Chanukah Party

January 1985

- Mon 14 Va'ad Meeting

February 1985

- Wed 6 Tu B'Shevat
- Mon 11 Va'ad Meeting
- Fri 22-Sun 24 UAHC No. Cal. Biennial
- Sun 24 JWF Telethon

March 1985

- Wed 6 Purim Service
- Sat 9 Megillah Madness III
- Mon 11 Va'ad Meeting

April 1985

- Fri 5 Passover
- Sat 6 Congregational Seder
- Mon 8 Va'ad Meeting
- Fri 12 Yom HaShoah Service
- Thu 18 Yom HaShoah
- Wed 24 Yom HaZikaron
- Thu 25 Yom Ha'Atzmaut

May 1985

- Sun 5 Congregational Meeting (Tentative date, elections)
- Thu 9 Lag Ba'Omer
- Mon 13 Va'ad Meeting
- Sat 25 Erev Shavuot Service

June 1985

- Thu 6-Sun 9 9th Int'l Conference of Gay & Lesbian Jews, Washington, D.C.
- Mon 10 Va'ad Meeting
- Sun 23 Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day

July 1985

- Mon 8 Va'ad Meeting
- Sun 28 Tisha B'Av

August 1985

- Mon 12 Va'ad Meeting
- Sun 18 Castro Street Fair

September 1985

- Mon 16 Rosh Hashanah 5746

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 Danvers at Caselli

San Francisco, California 94114

(415) 861-6932



MEMBER, UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

Officers:

President, Leila Raim

Vice President, Don Albert

Treasurer, David Stein

Recorder, Mark Mendelow

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Allan Berenstein

Leslie Bergson

Alex Ingersoll

Allyce Kimerling

Garry Koenigsberg

Ron Lezell

Cheryl Orvis

Jerry Rosenstein

Sharyn Saslafsky

Committee Chairs:

Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus
Building, David Gellman

Bylaws, David Gass

Education, Don Albert, coordinator

Finance, Tom Rothgiesser

Membership, Alan Berenstein

Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll

Oneg, Peter Abinanti

Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky

Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper and

Leila Raim

Ritual, Leslie Bergson

Social Action, Ron Lezell

Social Program, Judah Katz

Women's Chavurah, by committee

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Caselli at Danvers, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are also held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

Administrator: Marilyn Hertzberg

The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday through Friday (hours to be announced). If no answer, please leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency situation, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld

Jerry Rosenstein

Thank You Susan

Recently, Susan Greenspan, Office Manager for the Congregation, announced that she was leaving that position. Sha'ar Zahav has been very fortunate to have had Susan as our Office Manager for the past two years. She has ably guided our office activities through three different locations and during a period of tremendous growth.

Susan's pleasant voice in person, on the phone, or by a recorded message has been a welcome sound to members and strangers alike. Her warm and easygoing manner has made people feel comfortable and at home in their dealings with our office. Susan has contributed greatly to the growth of our synagogue programs as well as membership. She has been supportive of the Officers and Va'ad throughout her term with us.

The Va'ad and Officers would like to thank Susan for all of her efforts and wish her the best of luck as she continues to pursue her interests in the field of Art Therapy. An Oneg will be held soon in Susan's honor, so that we can all express our appreciation to her at that time.

Classified Ads

DIABETIC WOMEN'S GROUP: Beginning second week of September. For further information, please call Nanci Stern at 863-5081.

LOSE WEIGHT NOW, ASK ME HOW. Inexpensive, no struggle, guaranteed. Be energetic, look younger, feel better than ever. Transform your life. Be dynamic and positive. Peter, 441-0276.

A Home of Our Own — the Video

Copies of the videotape of the May 20 dedication of "A Home of Our Own" may still be ordered. The tape runs approximately one hour and covers the entire dedication ceremony, including the speeches and the singing, the torah procession and candid shots of the reception. Copies are available in both VHS and Beta formats at a cost of \$35 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. Pick up an order form at Friday night services or call the office (861-6932) for ordering information.

Torah Study

In honor of Simchat Torah (October 19), the Education Committee is planning to institute a regular Tuesday evening Torah study session beginning October 16, 7:30 p.m. Plan on coming to this old-fashioned *shul/cheder* to study the Torah portion for the week. Although the study sessions are designed for non-directed study, there will be tutors and self-proclaimed authorities there to help you in your study. Further details to be announced.

FOR SALE

Gilbert's Deli/Restaurant

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Established thriving business,
28 years in SF. Call Anna at
566-3031 or 921-8484.